

## REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 3-13 as being unpatentable over Japanese publication JP 11-019330. The Examiner has stated that the money management system of the '330 publication incorporates a reader-writer and a microcomputer that reads an applicant's IC card processing means and discriminating means, respectively.

Applicant has submitted a new claim 14, which now recites that the sorting means has respective, separate passages with a first passage partially disposed within the auxiliary tube so that the information input/output means is within the part of the passage which is disposed within the auxiliary tube and that the coin-type IC card then is retained within the passage disposed within the auxiliary tube. This is not shown in the art of record; in particular, it is not shown in the '330 Japanese publication.

Generally speaking, when a reading/writing function for a coin-type IC card is added to a coin processing device as known in the art, there is generally a problem finding space for the remaining functions of the coin processing device, such as passage of the coin-type IC cards, the reading/writing means and the IC card retention means.

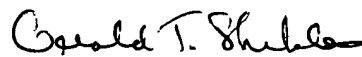
With the subject invention, this spatial problem is solved through the utilization of the area within the auxiliary tube, specifically, the passage for the coin-type IC cards is located within the auxiliary tube and the IC card retention means and the reading/writing means are also provided within the passage within the auxiliary tube, thus, spatial problems are avoided and yet the reading/writing function for the coin-type IC card can still be placed within the device.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and re-examination thereof.

With the above amendments and the remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance, and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below

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Respectfully submitted,



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